

#1881

Evidentiary Document No. 5248.

EXHIBIT B.

NAURU ISLAND WAR CRIMES

I, SX10334 Major Douglas John McBAIN of Army Headquarters, Melbourne, make oath and say:-

1. I am an officer of the Australian Military Forces.
2. Annexed hereto and marked Exhibit "B" is a true copy of a report by Lt. SANTAMARTA USMCR and an affidavit by Mr. TAUA on 11th and 7th December, 1945, which I have in my custody in the course of my duties.
3. The original report and affidavit cannot be made available immediately as it is required for trials of minor war criminals.

Sworn before me at Melbourne this)
27th day of May, 1946.)

(Sgd) Douglas McBain
Major

(sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.
An officer of the
Australian Military Forces.

SECRET.
File No. 1410.

Original report and Affidavit
forwarded to 8 MD on 26 Apr, 1946 -
Vide AHQ 36378 on file ON3.

REPORT OF INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED
WAR CRIMES.

11 December, 1945.

CASE of the killing of Colonel F.h. Chalmers, Doctor,
B.H.Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner,
Australians.

1. This investigation was conducted in conformity with Cinepac-Cinepa confidential letter, serial 07205, dated 4 September, 1945, by First Lieutenant Thomas Santamaria, USMCR, on December, 2, 1945.
2. These acts seem to be in direct violation of Article 46, Annex to Hague Convention No. 1V, of October, 18, 1907, as well as constituting the felony of murder.
3. (A) The testimony of the witness examined in the course of this investigation was secured through the use of an interpreter, after the witness had been sworn by me. The witness was given an opportunity to sign his testimony in my presence after such testimony had been transcribed and read to the witness

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in his own language by the interpreter. The stenographic reporter and the interpreter were also sworn.

(B) The transcribed testimony of the witness whose name is below listed is hereto attached as an exhibit, the number of which is indicated immediately following the witness' name.

Mr. Taua Exhibit Number 1.

4. The witness had visual observation of the decapitation by a sword of five Australians on the island of Nauru. He saw a Japanese officer and three Japanese soldiers come up to the house in which the five victims were residing, and he saw the officer have each in turn step forward and bring his sword down upon the neck of each, severing it from the body in each case. The witness was unable to fix the date of this incident by reference to the calendar, but knew that it occurred at about 5.00 am of the morning following the first allied air strike at NAURU after it had been occupied by the Japanese.

5. The victims in this case, Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor E. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle, and Mr. Harner, are all dead, and their burial place is unknown.

6. The only information the witness could supply as to the Japanese involved in this case was that there was one Army officer and three soldiers. He recalled the name of the Japanese Army commander on Nauru at the time as Takeuchi.

7. It appears from the investigation that the case involves the deliberate murder of five allied nationals, possibly in unlawful reprisal for the first allied air raid against the island of Nauru. From the fact that there was apparently a regularly constituted military detail assigned to execute the five victims, it is possible that the responsible Japanese Army command on Nauru ordered the action. It is recommended that the Japanese Army commander, Takeuchi, be questioned in an effort to fix further responsibility and to elicit the names of the four Japanese actually participating in the incident.

(Sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Legal Officer,
Investigator.

Exhibitory Document No. 5248.

SECRET

File No.
1410.

For the WAR CRIMES OFFICE
Judge Advocate General's Office -
Navy Department.
United States of America.

In the matter of the killing of Colonel F.R. Chalmers, Administrator of the Island of Nauru, Doctor B.H. Quinn, Government Medical Officer, Mr. W. Shugg, Dispenserer, Government Hospital, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Harner, Australians.	Perpetuation of Testimony of Mr. Taua, civilian on Tol Island, Truk and Central Carolines.
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Taken at: Fouba Village, Tol Island, Truk.

Date: December 2, 1945.

In the Presence of: Thomas Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R., Base Headquarters Company.
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.
Oliver E. Penson, lieutenant (jg) 292201,
U.S.N.R., Military Government, Island
Command, Truk.

Reporter: George C. Lishka, Corporal, 879071, U.S.M.
C.R., Base Headquarters, Company,
(Provisional) Island Command, Truk.

Interpreter: Mr. Phillip W. Harris, Fouba Village, Tol
Island, Truk.

Questions by: Thomas Santamaria, first Lieutenant, 032989,
U.S.M.C.R.

Q. State your name, permanent home address and occupation.
A. Mr. Taua, Onotca Island, Gilbert. June 1941 employed
and transferred by British to Island of Nauru to work on mining
phosphate. In July, 1943, transported with Nauruans by Japanese
to the Island of Tol, Truk. Worked for Japanese in the
construction of an air field.

Q. What is your war time status?
A. I am a displaced civilian.

Q. In what localities were you on duty?

A. I was working on the construction of an air field at Param.

Q. Are you familiar with the circumstances in the killing of Colonel F. R. Chalmers, Doctor P. H. Quinn, Mr. W. Shugg, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Harner on the Island of Nauru?

A. Yes.

Q. State what you know of your own knowledge about the incident.

A. On the evening of the first allied bombing of Nauru I was in the Nauruan village with two Nauruan boys. The planes began bombing late in the evening. I ran to the hospital at the Chinese location to locate my two friends who were transferred with me from the Gilbert Islands and were burnt in the unloading of Japanese gasoline to see whether they had been removed to a place of safety. When I arrived there was only one of my friends behind. I asked him if I could help escort him to a safe place and thereafter remained with him for the rest of the night. After the planes left we returned to the hospital. At daybreak a motor truck came alongside the hospital and I saw four Japanese soldiers, one carrying a sword and three with rifles, enter a house close to the hospital. I was standing in the doorway of the hospital facing the house where the Japanese had stopped. One Japanese soldier opened the door of the house and called for them to come to the door and line up before him inside the house. Three Japanese with rifles stood outside the doorway of the house and the one with the sword was standing in front of them. The Japanese with the sword called for one of them to step close to him. Colonel F. R. Chalmers stepped forward and I saw him stoop over and the Japanese raised his sword with one hand and brought it down on the colonel's neck. His head was severed from the rest of his body. Then Doctor Quinn, Mr. Doyle, Mr. Harner and Mr. Shugg stepped forward one at a time and the Japanese with the sword went through the same motions until all the men mentioned had all been decapitated. After the execution I saw each body being carried to the motor truck and placed in a large box therein. The Japanese with the sword came up to where I was and asked, "Where are the white men", while he was wiping blood off his sword. I answered that I did not know. He then informed me that they were all carried away by American planes during the night. Then the Japanese entered the motor truck and drove off.

Q. How far from the hospital was the house where these five Australians were staying?

A. Approximately fifty feet.

Q. Was there anything between you and the house?

A. No.

Q. How many stories are there to the hospital?
A. One.

Q. Was there a fence between the hospital and house?
A. No.

Q. Did you know whether there were any officers in the group of Japanese at the house?
A. Yes.

Q. How many?
A. One. The one wearing the sword.

Q. Can you recognise a Japanese officer when you see one?
A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese navy and army officer?
A. No.

Q. Can you recognise Japanese Army officers?
A. Yes.

Q. Can you tell the difference between a Japanese Army non-commissioned officer and a commissioned officer?
A. Yes.

Q. Were the three Japanese soldiers with rifles officers or enlisted men?
A. Enlisted men.

Q. Did you ever see any of these men before that night?
A. Yes, many times.

Q. Where did you see them?
A. They were sentries doing sentinal duty at different places in Nauru.

Q. Do you know any of their names?
A. No.

Q. Can you recognise them if you see them again?
A. Yes.

Q. Do you know any of the officers who were in charge of Japanese troops on Nauru at that time?
A. Yes.

Q. Who did you know?
A. The officer in charge of all troops.

- Q. What was his name?
A. Takouchi.
- Q. Could you recognise him if you saw him again.
A. Yes.
- Q. How many times did you see this man?
A. Once
- Q. Where did you see him?
A. At the cemetery.
- Q. Who was being buried?
A. A friend of mine.
- Q. How did this man die?
A. He was fatally burned while unloading gasoline from Japanese ships.
- Q. Was this before or after the air raid?
A. Before.
- Q. How many days before?
A. Less than a month.
- Q. How did the ship catch fire?
A. I do not know.
- Q. What were you doing at the hospital?
A. I went there to help my friends who were patients to seek cover from bombing.
- Q. How long did the bombing last?
A. About an hour.
- Q. Was the hospital bombed?
A. No.
- Q. How long after the bombing did you see this incident take place?
A. About five o'clock the morning following the air raid.
- Q. Did you remain awake all night?
A. Yes.
- Q. Why?
A. I was too frightened to sleep.
- Q. Did you see the five Australians enter the house the night before?
A. No.
- Q. Did you know these men?
A. Yes.

Q. Did you see any light in the house before or after the air raid?

A. No.

Q. When did you see these men the first time after the air raid?

A. In the morning when the Japanese came after them.

Q. Could the Japanese see you while they were at the house?

A. I don't know.

Q. Were you hiding?

A. No, I was sitting on a bed close to the doorway in the hospital.

Q. Do you know whether they saw you?

A. No.

Q. Was it possible for the Japanese to see you?

A. Yes.

Q. How long after the incident did the Japanese officer come to you.

A. Immediately thereafter.

Q. Did you notice much blood on the sword?

A. Yes.

Q. What was he wiping his sword with?

A. A piece of cloth.

Q. Did anyone else see what you saw?

A. No.

Q. Was anyone else close to the door with you?

A. No.

Q. Can you speak the Japanese language?

A. No.

Q. Can you understand it?

A. Yes, a little.

(SFC) TAUU
Mr. Tauu,
Tol Island, Truk.

Tol Island.
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Tauu, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath,
state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my

interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(sgd) TAUUA

Mr. Taua.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt., USMCR.

Tol Island.
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Phillip W. Harris, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 5 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

(Sgd) PHILLIP W. HARRIS
Mr. Phillip W. Harris.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
T. Santarmaria
1st. Lt. USMCR
Legal Officer.

I, T. Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on 7th December, 1945, personally appeared before me Mr. Taua, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Mr. Taua read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Touba Village, Tol
Truk & Central Carolines.

T. Santamaria
T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7 December, 1945.

1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Island Command, Truk.

Fingerprint of Mr. Taua, witness.

Fingerprint of Mr. Phillip
W. Harris, Interpreter.

This is the document marked Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, A.H.Q., sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

interrogation and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(sgd) -TAUA

Mr. Taua.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
1st. Lt., USMCR.

Tol Island.
Truk and Central Carolines.

I, Mr. Phillip W. Harris, of lawful age, being duly sworn upon oath state that I truly translated the questions asked and answers given and that after being transcribed, I truly translated the foregoing deposition containing 5 pages, to the witness; that the witness thereupon in my presence affixed his signature thereto.

(Sgd) PHILLIP W. HARRIS
Mr. Phillip W. Harris.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 7th day of December, 1945.

(sgd) T. SANTAMARIA
T. Santamaria
1st. Lt. USMCR
Legal Officer.

I, T. Santamaria, first lieutenant, 032989, U.S.M.C.R., certify that on 7th December, 1945, personally appeared before me Mr. Taua, and gave the foregoing answers to the several questions set forth; that after his testimony had been transcribed, the said Mr. Taua read the same and affixed his signature thereto in my presence.

Place: Touba Village, Tol
Truk & Central Carolines.

T. Santamaria
T. SANTAMARIA

Date: 7 December, 1945.

1st. Lt. USMCR.,
Island Command, Truk.

Fingerprint of Mr. Taua, witness.

Fingerprint of Mr. Phillip
W. Harris, Interpreter.

This is the document marked Exhibit "B" referred to in the Affidavit of SX10334, Maj. D. J. McBain, A.H.Q., sworn before me this 27th day of May, 1946, as being produced and shown to him at this time of his swearing his said Affidavit.

(Sgd) W. BUNSELL Capt.

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證據書類 # 5248 月 27 日

同 證人、名前、原籍及職業を述べ

答 必、月 27 日、ギンビー、ト、有、ト、中島、ト、

昭和十二年(一九四一年)古、屋、レ、エ、ニ、テ、英、國、人、
ニ、テ、島、ノ、物、サ、レ、テ、解、務、振、ノ、任、ヲ、シ、タ、リ、

昭和十八年(一九四三年)ナ、レ、島、人、ト、一、議、ニ、由、テ、
ト、ラ、リ、ト、レ、島、ノ、運、レ、タ、リ、日、本、ノ、タ、ニ、能、
作、場、建、設、ニ、従、事、シ、タ、リ、

同 證人、ハ、エ、ス、ア、ー、レ、タ、ヤ、ー、エ、大、佐、ニ、シ、テ、
リ、年、ノ、博、士、ヲ、ガ、リ、エ、シ、タ、リ、及、ハ、レ、ト、レ、
ナ、レ、島、ニ、於、テ、レ、殺、害、ノ、詳、細、ヲ、知、悉、シ、居、ル、

答、ハ、

同 其、事、件、ニ、関、シ、證、人、自、身、ノ、知、ル、事、ヲ、述、
ベ、

答 ナ、レ、島、ニ、對、シ、テ、聯、合、軍、ノ、最、初、ノ、爆、撃、
ハ、ア、ン、タ、晚、ニ、シ、テ、私、ニ、ハ、一、ナ、レ、ト、シ、タ、リ、
ル、人、ノ、邸、ヲ、落、シ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、
撃、ヲ、開、始、シ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、
爆、撃、ヲ、行、フ、ニ、由、リ、日、本、軍、ノ、ガ、リ、ン、ヲ、積、下、シ、タ、リ、
ル、際、ニ、火、傷、ヲ、受、ケ、タ、リ、人、ノ、所、在、ヲ、確、定、シ、タ、リ、
所、ノ、物、ヲ、レ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、見、ル、タ、リ、タ、リ、
到、達、シ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、タ、リ、
ニ、シ、タ、リ、

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私ハ假ニ安全ナ場所ニテ附泰ソテ行カシカト尋
ネ莫後彼ト一諸ニ其処ニテ夜ヲ明ニシタ。飛行
機ガ去リタ後吾々ハ病院ヘ戻リシタ。夜明方一各
ノ貨物自動車ガ病院ノ傍ヘヤツテ来ニシタ。ソシ
テ私ハ四人、日本兵セガ病院ノ近ク一軒ノ家ヘ入
ノヲ見掛ケニシタ。一人ハ劍ヲ予ツテ居リ三人ハ
銃ヲ持ツテ居リニシタ。私ハ日本人ガ止ツタコノ家
ニ面シテ中ル病院ノ入口ニ立ツテ居タノデス。
一人ノ日本兵セハコノ家ノ扉ヲ開ケテ彼等ニ
戸ノソトコニテ出テキテ家ノ中デ彼ノ前ニ整
列スル様ニト叫ビニシタ。

銃ヲ持ツタ三人ノ兵士ハ家ノ戸ノ外ニ立ツテ
居リ、劍ヲ予ツタ一人ハ彼等ノ前ニ立ツテ居
ニシタ。

劍ヲ予ツタ日本人ハ彼等ノ一人ニモット傍ヘ寄
ル様ニト叫ビニシタ。エス、アール、タヤール大佐係

前ヘ寄リマシタ。ソコデ私ハ大佐ガ前屈ニテ
ツテ中ル一ヲ見掛ケマシタ。コノ日本人ハ片手ニ

劍ヲ振上げテ大佐ノ頸ニ打下シマシタ。大佐ノ
首ハ胴ヨリ離レマシタ。ソレカラタヤール大佐係

ドイツ兵ハ、ハマー兵ハ、ヤツガ兵ガ一度ニ一人ヅ
前ヘ進ミマシタ。劍ヲ持ツタ日本人ハ同シ動作

ヲ作ソテ遂ニ上記ノ人々ハスベテ首ヲ斬ラシ

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テニヒミシ。犯行後私に各一身体が
貨物自動車運搬して、その中ニアリ大
キナ箱の中ニ納められ、その日撃シマシ
タ。剣ヲ持シ、日本人に私一ナリ死スヤ
シキ事ヲ、剣ニシテ、血ヲ拭ヒ、ナリ、白人
多ク、何処ニ中ニカネ、ト尋ネシタ
私、知ラナト答ヘマシタ。復、私ニ復
等、一夜、その中ニアリ、カ、飛行機運
ビシタ。行シ、ロ、ナリ、ナリ、ナリ
ソシテ、日本人多ク、貨物自動車ニ乗
テ、行シ、ナリ、ナリ、ナリ

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